

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Advisory Action mailed December 1, 2005 has been carefully considered.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 6, 8-14, 16, 19, 21-27, 29, and 34-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,537,141 to Harper et al. (Harper). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 6, 8-14, 16, 19, 21-27, 29, 32 and 34-39 are not anticipated by Harper.

Claim 1 includes the following limitations.

A voice communications method comprising:

- a process at a terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;
- a process at a server for receiving said voice data;
- a process at said server for sending said voice data to a predetermined terminal;
- a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data;
- a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data;
- a process at the terminal that received said voice data for generating a reception result of said voice data;
- a process at the terminal that generated said voice data for receiving said reception result;
- and
- a process at the terminal that received said reception result for visually indicating a reception state of said voice data based on said reception result.

(Claim 1) (Emphasis added)

In contrast, Harper does not include the limitation of a visual indication of a “reception state” of voice data based on a “reception result”. The student response data of Harper cannot be equated with the claimed reception result. Moreover, Harper does not disclose a reception state based upon the reception result. Therefore, Harper cannot disclose the limitation of visually indicating the reception state. Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by Harper.

Claim 6 includes the following limitations.

A voice communications method comprising:

- a process at a terminal at which voice is input for generating utterance data, which is shorter than the voice data indicating said voice and which is data indicating an utterance;
- a process at a server for receiving said utterance data;
- a process at said server for sending said utterance data to a predetermined terminal;

- a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said utterance data;
- a process at the terminal that received said utterance data for indicating the utterance by the terminal that sent said utterance data;
- a process at the terminal that sent said utterance data for generating said voice data;
- a process at said server for receiving said voice data;
- a process at said server for sending said voice data to said predetermined terminal;
- a process at said predetermined terminal for receiving said voice data; and
- a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

(Claim 6)

Utterance data cannot be equated with the header information of Harper. Harper discloses that the header is “placed” on random audio samples to facilitate identification. In contrast, the claimed utterance data is not sent with the voice packet and does not serve the function of a header. The cited reference to header is the only mention of a header in Harper. However, even from this scant discussion, it is clear that Harper is employing the well known definition of header as a field that precedes the data. In Harper, the sole purpose of the header is to enable the audio extraction system to identify the audio samples. The header or harper is not transmitted the way the claimed utterance data is, nor is it used for the same purpose. Therefore, the header of Harper cannot be equated with the claimed utterance data. Thus, claim 6 is not anticipated by Harper.

Claim 9 includes the following limitations:

A voice communications method comprising:

- a process at a server for storing permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal;
- a process at a terminal at which voice is input for generating voice data indicating said voice;
- a process at said server for receiving said voice data;
- a process at said server for sending said voice data to terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data;
- a process at the terminal to which data is permitted to be sent from the terminal that sent said voice data for receiving said voice data; and

a process at the terminal that received said voice data for outputting the voice indicated by said voice data.

(Claim 9) (Emphasis added)

In contrast, Harper does not disclose sending data from one optional terminal to another. Harper is limited to disclosing transmission between a particular terminal and an optional terminal. Harper discloses only that an administrative computer authorizes transmission between a student terminal and the administrative computer. Such cannot be equated with sending data from an optional terminal to another. In Harper, at least one of the two terminals is not optional, it is the administrative computer. Harper, therefore does not disclose this limitation and, in fact, precludes such a limitation. Data transmission between one optional terminal and another optional terminal is disclosed in the specification and at Figure 19. It is clear that Harper does not disclose or suggest the limitation as claimed.

Moreover, the authorization transmitted by the administrative computer is merely the transmission of data from the classroom master units to the administrative computer. This cannot be equated with the claimed limitation of "permission or denial for sending data from one optional terminal to another optional terminal." Thus, claim 9 is not anticipated by Harper.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims include at least one of the foregoing limitations not taught by Harper, and that none of the cited references remedy the defects noted. Therefore applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 – 39 are not anticipated by Harper nor rendered obvious by Harper or any of the cited references, alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

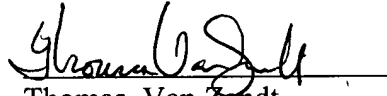
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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